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May 30, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *je fielding m*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **UPDATE ON CONSOLIDATION OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY
REHABILITATION CENTERS**

This is to provide an update on the progress of the Antelope Valley Rehabilitation Centers (AVRC) consolidation. On October 5, 2010, your Board approved the proposed action from the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and Department of Public Health (DPH) to consolidate the AVRC Substance Use Disorder residential programs located at Acton and Warm Springs into a single facility.

Background

The AVRC consolidation plan includes closure of the Warm Springs facility and relocation of its program and staffing to the Acton facility. This consolidation was implemented to: 1) maximize the use of limited resources for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services; 2) bring the AVRC facility into compliance with State and County licensing and regulatory requirements; 3) ensure a high quality of AVRC services by renovating the physical infrastructure at Acton, enhancing clinical and treatment services, and providing sufficient staffing levels; and 4) avoid structural/capital need expenditures at the Warm Springs location. As reported to the Board on September 23, 2011, the Warm Springs facility was closed and the program and staff were transferred to the Acton site as scheduled on June 30, 2011.

Physical Infrastructure Improvements

DPH and Internal Services Department (ISD), have continued work on the renovation of the Acton facility. Modular units that will serve as temporary housing and office space have been obtained and moved to the site. Renovation of the kitchen, dining hall and other service buildings is underway.

Management of the remainder of the project to provide interim housing and support facilities will be transferred from ISD to DPW, though ISD will continue to provide support. DPW will complete repairs to salvage existing cottages and modular buildings by November 2012. To fund DPW's completion of amenities for the interim housing and support facilities, the CEO will include recommendations in the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Final Changes Budget to transfer the balance of deferred maintenance funds allocated for renovation of the existing buildings and installation of the modular buildings to a new capital project.

Concurrently, DPW will assess options for permanent replacement of the existing facility through construction of new buildings, with completion of program and scope of work by Fall 2012. Upon completion of the program, the CEO will recommend Board approval of project funding for appropriate environmental documentation, design and construction. This will allow earth moving by spring 2013 and construction in the summer of 2013. It is projected that construction will be complete by the spring of 2014, and the renovation will be complete, with staff and clients being able to occupy the new campus, by summer 2014.

Programs and Services

Training is being provided for all clinical staff to ensure SUD treatment is delivered within the standards of practice. The AVRCs have added several evidence-based treatment practices: Medication Assisted Treatment, Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavior Therapy, and 12-Step Facilitation. Increased engagement, retention, and positive compliance in treatment were documented in the last year. Staffing levels were appropriate to the census and allowed the AVRC to provide quality integrated behavioral health services. As a result, the AVRC received a 2011 DPH Innovation Award for demonstrating creative program planning and team efforts that increased productivity.

Personnel

The consolidation did not require a staffing reduction. All currently budgeted positions are necessary to ensure adequate provision of administrative, clinical, maintenance, support operations and services.

Certification and Licensure

On February 14, 2012, the California State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs approved the AVRC's request for renewal of their license certification to operate as an alcoholism and drug abuse recovery treatment facility at the Acton site. This renewal is effective as of March 1, 2012, through February 28, 2014.

On March 23, 2012, the Los Angeles County Fire Department completed an official inspection of the Acton site and found that the facility is reasonably fire safe.

Environmental Health conducted an environmental health inspection on February 23, 2012, and found no deficiencies.

Next Steps

We will continue to provide your Board with progress updates on the renovation. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

JEF:hm
PH:1102:002

c: Chief Executive Officer
Acting County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors